

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2010

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
John Sonner
Michaela Moran
Nick Zavalas
Sean Hanley
Tom Campbell

Committee Members Not Present:

Dore' Hunter
Jim Yarin
Pat Clifford
Peter Berry

Other Attendees:

Franny Osman
Corey York

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:44.

In preparation for the Friday meeting with the MBTA, the committee discussed the 60% design documents, which were received by Mr. York this week. Topics discussed were concentrated in a couple areas.

South Side Access

- Concerned that the position and size of the drop-off area may have traffic impacts on Main Street.
- Believe that the drop-off area should be moved as far west as possible, even if it means taking a narrow slice of Richards land. The committee believes that Gordon Richards is amenable.
- Can the final design of the south-side drop-off be delayed pending coordination with the AART and possible nearby town recreation land.
- Can the station be designed for future access at the building, i.e. access to grade level?
- Does the MBTA have objections if in the future the town would restrict the small drop off to be used by a shuttle bus only?
- How does the MBTA intended to manage the rest of the Montori land? Will they lease it to the town? Can the plan show some parking
- Please place the fencing on the inside edge of the platform for access at all 4 corners.

Building Design & Station Aesthetics

- Can the fencing be wrought iron or something other than chain link? The east-end of station especially is near the historic district.
- Can there be more landscape design, especially around the station entrances?
- Concerned about light shining out of the building at night.
- General feeling that more clapboard would make the building integrate better with the historic district. Since there is no safety issue seeing through the building from Main Street, maybe the east & west sides can be mostly clapboard.
- General feeling that the steel & glass structure is out of place in in a residential neighborhood in Acton.
- More concerned with "leakage" from the platform lighting than having the fixtures match. Please adhere to the town lighting by-law, which requires outdoor lighting that does not leak.
- The plan does not clearly indicate the roofing material. Can there be more pitch to the roof?
- What is the platform railing like? Can it be more "transparent"? Can the grade be changed in some areas so that the railing is not required?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23.

The next SATSAC meeting is scheduled for 7:30 Wednesday 06 October 2010 at the COA.

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Other questions for the next MBTA meeting:

- Are there going to be pedestrian crossing gates at Central (twice), Martin and Parker?
- Can we get further feedback before 90% design?
- Is the existing track through the station shifting?
- Will the MBTA be responsible for cleaning the station, and dealing with graffiti?
- Will the station design abide by the town's lighting by-law?
- Will there be advertising? Where will it be located?

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=244> is the SATSAC page.

<http://www.calltoacton.org/> is the local advocacy group.

<http://www.littletonma.org/content/49/3594/5590/default.aspx> is Littleton's MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Committee.

http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585 is the MBTA site about the project.